
March 2, 2010

To: Members of the House Regulatory Affairs Committee

From: Cynthia Maher, CAE
Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Assn.

Subject: House Bill 4575

On behalf of the 350 contractor members of the Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association, we write to oppose enactment of House Bill 4575.

While the adoption of "green" building standards is an admirable goal and perhaps a wave of the future, we question the advisability of allowing individual local units of government to adopt any standard separate from the single state codes, which have been a part of the construction landscape since 1999.

Prior to enactment of the single state code for all construction, our members were burdened with conflicting local codes all over Michigan. At the time of enactment of single state codes, the State of Michigan only enforced its code in about 60% of the jurisdictions, leading to a hodge-podge of codes from one city to another. It was an unbelievably inefficient system that lead to constant confusion and inconsistencies.

If Michigan is looking to adopt "green" building codes, we would suggest the discussion should take place within the context of the *entire* state, not local units of government.

Additionally, by naming a specific code as is done in HB 4575, future codes produced by other code writing bodies would be precluded from consideration, even if their standards were found to be better than the ones proposed by name in the bill. New legislation would have to be introduced in this instance.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

We respectfully request HB 4575 not be reported from the committee.